



## Nashville Clean Water Project

MAY 3RD, 2008 - KEEP IT CLEAN!

-PERCY PRIEST LAKE

**What:** Percy Priest Lake's 24 islands and 213 miles of shoreline are grossly polluted. The Corp of Engineers estimates as much as 200 tons of trash tops the islands, and a hundred times more has fallen to the bottom of the lake. We are identifying the most polluted islands with the Corp so we can scrub the areas of greatest need. We expect this to be the single, largest clean up project in Nashville to date, collecting 15 to 20 tons of waste and debris left year-round by campers, boaters & recreationalists.

**Who:** Bridgestone Americas is partnering with Team Green, the Corp of Engineers, and the Cumberland River Compact to organize a city-wide clean-up of polluted islands on Percy Priest Lake with a team of as many as 1,000 volunteers. Major recording artist Kathy Mattea has pledged her talents for a benefit concert for all volunteers. Other partners include thinkMEDIA, Nashville Shores, Elm Hill Marina, Whole Foods, Publix, Tennessean Scenic Rivers Association, Metro Beautification, Metro Water & Public Works, Hands On Nashville, local marinas.

**Where:** Volunteers will meet at Nashville Shores waterpark and be shuttled in strategic fashion to identified islands. Nashville Shores will also be the staging area for a garbage barge and dumpsters that will serve as key visuals for comprehensive media coverage. VIPs and Media will access the events easily via Elm Hill Marina just across the southern tip of the lake.

**When:** Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We're offering several options for volunteers that day with three-hour increments beginning at 8:00am and ending with the 1-4:00pm slot. Registration is encouraged, and will open online March 18 at a URL to be determined.

**Why:** Percy Priest Lake's islands accumulate tons of human-imposed debris every season. The metals and plastics leach chemicals into the water and threaten the habitat for aquatic species and birds in Tennessee and beyond – it is conceivable that Percy Priest trash could flow all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and into the Dead Zone. Cleaner islands and shoreline will improve habitat and water quality, reduce mosquito breeding and populations of scavenger species (crows, squirrels, pigeons, rats) and provide more enjoyable recreation for all. News media covered this issue in 2007's high season but neither a solution nor clean-up has been organized. Springtime, before boating season begins, is the ideal time to mobilize education efforts. We plan to work with legislators and Army Corp of Engineers to create "No Polluting" signs and fines for future violators. We also plan this as a seasonal/ annual city-wide clean-up.

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